Approved For Release 2000/04/14 : CIA

Penkovsky Spy Trial Singes Reds

By Paul Wohl Written for The Christian Science Monitor

The Soviet high command itself now has been drawn into the mystery of the Penkovsky spy trial.

The chief of the Soviet tactical rocket forces, Chief Mar-shal of Artillery Sergel S. Varentsov, has been demoted, and the chief prosecutor in the spy trial has publicly denied that Marshal Varentsov's pre-decessor, the late Marshal of Artillery Mitrofan I. Nedelin had been Penkovsky's fatherin-law. Marshal Neuerin ... May, 1960, was given credit for the downing of the American branch of the armed forces. branch of the armed forces. in-law. Marshal Nedelin in

Political Backing

said the chief prosecutor in an time high command for the past livestia interview, was a by three years. Izvestia interview, was a by "General G." of the Army's po-

otherwise the chief prosecutor, demobilization of 25,000 officers. a lieutenant general in the Opposition Reported made such a statement. For personal relations of public figures are almost never mentioned in the U.S.S.R.

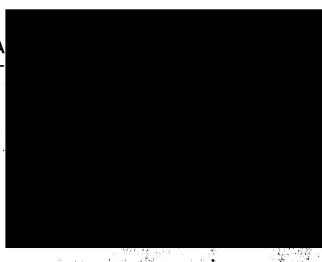
How had the Penkovsky affair become possible and why
was it aired in this manner?
One thinks of Polish Communist Party chief Wladyslaw
Gomulka's remark of November, 1962, about the question
how Stalinism had become in order to keep his critics in
possible. "The Soviet compossible with the soviet composition of the soviet composition of the soviet composition."

In order to keep his critics in check, Mr. Khrushchev, a few rades have not said every weeks later, launched the soptime," Mr. Gomulka told his called democratization of the central committee. central committee.

Soviets to say more about the position as First Deputy De-Penkovsky affair. Marshal fense Minister, and after a Varentsov has lost his baten brief comeback in East Gerfor having trusted the by now executed spy.

that he and several of his livies have among the first it be spluttered by the affair rells command came up in April, attention to the peculiar relations between the political vain sought the approval of leadership and the high remainder the Central Committee for a small defense budget. mand. Marshal Varents:/ 1/15 no ordinary military innician."

As an alternate meriter of the Soviet Communist 113' Central Committee and 1 dy - bity to the Supreme Section to must have her no dell title than the maintenance under ing. As onice of a fitting street of 1,000,000 soldiers. must have her on dell lick



which has been a bone of con-Olitical Backing tention between Premier Ni-Penkovsky's father-in-law, kita S. Khrushchev and part of

The differences between the Premier and the high command rune Soviet capital has heard Khrushchev in January, 1960, rumors about the background had made the Supreme Soviet of the Penkovsky trial and its probable reverberations—forces by 1,200,000 men and otherwise the chief process. came into the open after Mr.

Politically, this measure was keyed to the Paris summit con-ference in May; economically, oned in the U.S.S.R. it was to make available more How had the Penkovsky at labor; militarily, it was to be

ontral committee. Army. Sometime in the spring "In due time it may suit the of 1960, Marshal Konev lost his many, was given the innocuous. job of an inspector of the "Whatever the demoted if sr- armed forces, which carries no shal's responsibility, the lact real responsibility.

cut in the defense budget.

Marshal of the Armored Forces Pavl A. Rostmistrov at the time came out in defense of the Premier, declaring that a substantial increase of the rocket forces would cost less